

Support Reauthorization of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program



BEFORE: Open uranium mine



AFTER: Reclaimed mine (Clean up & Closed)



PFP—Bechtel Headstart building

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The Navajo Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) is a program providing services to the Navajo people by reclaiming abandoned mines which include Coal and Non-coal (uranium, copper) mines for protection of public health/safety, wildlife, and the environment; and by implementing Public Facility Projects (PFP) for mining impacted chapters through partnership with respective infrastructure building entities. Navajo AML receives 50% of the reclamation fee (35 cents/ton) collected from active coal mining operations on Navajo lands.

Since 1988, Navajo AML's accomplishments include:

- Invented 1,300 mine sites that includes coal, uranium and copper;
- Completed reclamation of all abandoned coal mine sites;
- Completed reclamation of 90% of the 1,000 plus abandoned uranium mines;
- Implemented funding mechanism for chapters impacted by mining activity for Public Facility Projects;
- Provided assistance to 31 chapters for Public Facility Projects, including infrastructure projects;
- Completed 1 Headstart, 6 Senior Citizens, 1 Behavioral Health, 3 Multi-purpose buildings, 5 powerline extensions, 2 waterline extensions, and 1 Navajo Nation Park access road.

The results indicate that AML fee is utilized effectively for projects that are essential to the Navajo people. Unfortunately, the federal law that authorizes the fee collection expired in September 2004, but is only continuing on an extended fee collection to June, 2006 by Congress, causing great uncertainty. It is imperative that the Navajo Nation work closely with federal agencies and Congress on Reauthorization of SMCRA.

Your **SUPPORT** is vital! What you can do to help?

- Write to your Congressmen for continuation of AML Programs pursuant to SMCRA (PL 95-87), and request an extension to Year 2018;
- Emphasize to appropriate funding from the trust fund balance estimated at \$32 million plus;
- Continue to receive funding from the fee collection by more than 50% of the collection.